

REMARKS

Applicants thank the Examiner for the thorough consideration given the present application. Claims 1-18 are currently being prosecuted. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks as set forth below.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-3 and 9-11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C § 103(a) as patentable over Ikeyona et al., in view of design choice. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent claim 1 includes a combination of elements and has been amended to recite that said exhaust port is formed with a cylinder head, said camshaft is disposed on a side of said exhaust port and supported by said cylinder head, and said valve is disposed another side of said exhaust port. Claim 1 has also been amended to recite that the valve is disposed on either a left side or a right side of the engine which is perpendicular to the camshaft and that is different than a front surface of the engine where the exhaust port is open so as to be free from interference with a camshaft actuating device. Independent claim 9 includes similar features in a varying scope.

These features are supported at least by Figure 2 and paragraph [0043] in the present application. For example, Figure 2 illustrates the valve 33 being disposed on either a left side or right side of the engine which is perpendicular to camshaft 30 and that is different than a front surface of the engine where the exhaust port 32 is open so as to be free from interference with a camshaft actuating device. As discuss in paragraph [00042] of the present application, according to the conventional arrangement, because the water supply hose 41, the water supply port 42, and

the thermostat housing 18 are positioned in the vicinity of the opening of the exhaust port 32, there's almost no space on the front surface of the cylinder 10 for installing the reed valve 33 of the exhaust gas purifying device in the vicinity of the exhaust port 32. The present invention solves this problem by disposing the valve on either the left or right side of the engine that is different than a front surface of the engine where the exhaust port is open so as to be free from interference with the camshaft actuating device. Further, as shown, the exhaust port is formed with a cylinder head, the camshaft is disposed on a side of the exhaust port and supported by the cylinder head, and the valve is disposed another side of said exhaust port.

On the contrary, as shown in Figure 3 of Ikeyona et al., the valve U is disposed on the same side of the engine that the exhaust port 6 is disposed. Thus, as shown in Figure 3 of Ikeyona et al., the valve U is interfered with by the pipe 34 and corresponding elements. Therefore, Ikeyona et al. does not achieve the advantages of the present invention. The claimed invention is also clearly not a matter of design choice. Further, Ikeyona et al. also does not teach or suggest that the exhaust port is formed with a cylinder head, the camshaft is disposed on a side of the exhaust port and supported by the cylinder head, and the valve is disposed another side of said exhaust port.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted independent claims 1 and 9 and the claims depending therefrom are allowable.

Further, it is respectfully submitted the rejection of claim 4-8 and 12-16 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Ikeyona et al., in view of Hori et al. has also been overcome as

claims 4-8 and 12-16 are dependent claims and Hori et al. also does not teach or suggest the features recited in the corresponding independent claims 1 and 9.

NEW CLAIMS

In addition, new claims 17 and 18 have been added to set forth the invention in a varying scope, and Applicants submit the new claims are fully supported by the originally-filed specification. It is respectfully submitted these claims further define over the applied art.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above remarks, it is believed that the claims clearly distinguish over the patents relied on by the Examiner, either alone or in combination.

Since the remaining patent cited by the Examiner has not been utilized to reject the claims, but to merely show the state of the art, no comment need be made with respect thereto.

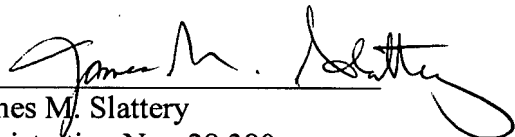
In view of the above amendment, applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact David A. Bilodeau Reg. No. 42,325 at (703) 205-8072, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37.C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.14; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,

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